



Forest Service

Region One
Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Region Four
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

File Code: 3410
Route To: 3400

Date: October 31, 2018

Subject: Forest Health Protection Evaluation for the Emerald Creek Project (CFO-TR-18-007)

To: Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

On August 6-9, 2018, Paul Zambino, Plant Pathologist, and Lee Pederson, Forest Entomologist, met with Steve Selser and other members of the North Idaho Strike Team at the Emerald Project on the St. Joe Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests to conduct an evaluation of forest health.

Major findings discussed on site and in the enclosed reports include:

- *Root diseases were the major factor impacting current forest health and may affect forest health after management treatments. Bark beetles were only causing losses in trees affected by root diseases and were not at outbreak levels.*
- *Without management, root diseases will cause increasing tree losses over time.*
- *Conversion to more root-disease tolerant species (pines or western larch) would result in healthier forests. Thinning stands and leaving mostly susceptible tree species (Douglas-fir and grand fir) would likely cause a rapid increase in root disease losses.*

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

/s/Gina Davis (for):

TIMOTHY GARCIA

Director, State and Private Forestry Northern and Intermountain Regions

Enclosure

cc: Timothy P. Garcia, John T. Shannon, Gina Davis, Jeanne Higgins, Kim Pierson, Matthew Davis, Mary Reinhart

